

Urban Gardens

Promote Local Food Production

Target(s):

Increase by 1.75 acres food producing community gardens in the city limits by 2015, using 2012 as baseline.

Lincoln Now:

Community gardens have been established at a number of privately owned locations across Lincoln. Community gardens also can be an appropriate land management approach for areas of parkland not committed to active recreation uses. A topic that has become increasingly important is that of local foods. The local food movement was born of a desire to provide a secure source of nutritious food that has a reduced impact on the environment and increased benefit to the health of consumers. Many urban areas have few sources of fresh produce, meats and dairy products; and many consumers must rely upon convenience foods and fast food restaurants. Food that is transported over great distances, sometimes from other continents, consumes a great deal of energy in that transport and produces a corresponding amount of greenhouse gases.

Production of food closer to the urban center, if not within it, reduces the distance food must be transported, increases the freshness of food available, supports the local agricultural economy, and provides nutritious food to those who might not otherwise be able to obtain it. Within the city, community gardens, farmer's markets and local cooperative markets are all important links in the local food chain.

In Lincoln, the primary sponsor of urban community gardens is the non-profit Community CROPS, which now has among other things sixteen community garden sites, a training farm, a Community Supported Agriculture program, and a regular stand at the Old Cheney Road Farmers' Market.

It is estimated that as of 2012 CROPS has approximately 1.25 acres in production. These efforts are complemented by a limited number of school and neighborhood initiatives.